

## Facts for Districts

### NAEP IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

- ▶ Elected officials, policymakers, and educators all use NAEP results to develop ways to improve education.
- ▶ NAEP provides a common measure of student achievement across the country.
- ▶ NAEP data can be used to compare and understand the performance of demographic groups within your state, the nation, other states, and select urban districts.
- ▶ Teachers can use sample NAEP questions and scoring guides as a resource for understanding student performance.
- ▶ For the first time, in 2011, NAEP will include a computer-based assessment in writing and a computer-based study in mathematics.

“Participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has provided the Clark County School District and the state of Nevada with historic records of student achievement. The program has given us invaluable data to assess past performance and project future trends.”

– Dr. Jeffrey N. Halsell, Assessment and Accountability Coordinator,  
Clark County School District, Nevada

**The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)** is the only nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in core subjects such as mathematics, reading, science, and writing. The results of NAEP are published as The Nation's Report Card, and are available for the nation, states, and for districts participating in the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA).

District staff plays an essential role in NAEP. Superintendents and district assessment leaders can work closely with principals to explain the importance of the assessment to teachers and students selected for participation. When students take part in NAEP and give their best effort, we get the most accurate measure possible of student achievement across the country. The table below depicts which subjects will be assessed in 2011.

**The NAEP 2011 Assessment Subjects**

Grade	Subject	National Results	State Results	TUDA Results
<b>Grade 4</b>	Mathematics	✓	✓	✓
	Reading	✓	✓	✓
<b>Grade 8</b>	Mathematics	✓	✓	✓
	Reading	✓	✓	✓
	Science	✓	✓	
	Writing	✓		
<b>Grade 12</b>	Economics*			
	Writing	✓		

\*Results will not be available for the economics pilot in 2011.



# It's important to know that...

NAEP was first administered in 1969 to measure student achievement nationally. Since the 1970s, long-term trend assessments have been administered to 9-, 13-, and 17-year olds, and are currently conducted every 4 years to gauge students' progress in mathematics and reading. In 1990, NAEP was first administered at the state level. Fourth- and eighth-grade students are currently assessed at the national and state levels in mathematics and reading every 2 years, and in other subjects in alternating years. Twelfth-grade students are assessed in a variety of subjects, and results are typically released at the national level only. In 2002, NAEP began TUDA, which measures what students know and can do in select urban districts. In 2011, 21 districts will participate and receive district-level NAEP results.

## **Special studies are also conducted periodically.**

In 2011, American Indian and Alaska Native students participating in the mathematics and reading assessments at grades 4 and 8 will also be included in the National Indian Education Study (NIES). Students, teachers, and school administrators will participate by completing a short survey. NIES describes the condition of education for American Indian and Alaska Native students in the United States. A special research and development study will also be conducted in 2011 to link the results of the NAEP grade 8 mathematics and science assessments with the results from Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study.

**NAEP is the only measure that allows for valid comparisons of student performance to be made across states and selected urban districts.** A state's own assessment is a valuable tool for providing information on student performance in that particular state. Because state assessments vary from state to state, their results cannot be used to compare student performance across the country. Results from NAEP can be compared, however, because the same assessment is given to students in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Districts participating in TUDA can also be included for comparisons.

## **NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments.**

NAEP is an important assessment because of its high technical quality. The assessment's frameworks are developed with input from state and district education officials, education experts, teachers, and content specialists from around the country.

## **NAEP reports on results for different demographic groups, rather than for individual students or schools.**

NAEP uses a carefully designed sampling process to ensure that the schools and students selected are representative of schools and students across the United States. To ensure that the sample represents all students in the nation's schools, NAEP allows a broad array of accommodations during the assessment for students with disabilities and English language learners.

## **NAEP is designed to cause minimal disruption of instruction.**

It will take approximately 90 to 120 minutes for students to complete NAEP. Students will answer questions in various subject areas and will also be asked to fill out the student questionnaire, which provides contextual information, such as the amount of reading students do and what types of classes they take. Teachers do not need to prepare their students to take the assessment. NAEP staff members administer the assessment and work with your designated NAEP school coordinator to organize assessment activities.

## **NAEP items can be used as a helpful educational resource.**

Teachers can use actual NAEP items that have been released to see how students' performance compares to national, state, and select urban district results on specific items. Released NAEP items come with a scoring guide, sample student responses, and performance data by jurisdiction. All of this information is provided in the NAEP Questions Tool which can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx/>.

On the NAEP website, <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>, district and school staff can also

- ▶ view results for the nation, states, and select urban districts,
- ▶ compare results for various demographic groups, and
- ▶ access information designed for teachers, students, and parents.